

The President's Daily Brief

20 December 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED]

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Soviet position on date for resuming arms talks influenced by US stand on European security conference.
(Page 2)

Soviet [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Page 3)

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[REDACTED] French [REDACTED]
Middle East. (Page 4)

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[REDACTED]

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Two factions of India's Congress Party meeting separately to resolve organizational and policy problems.
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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY



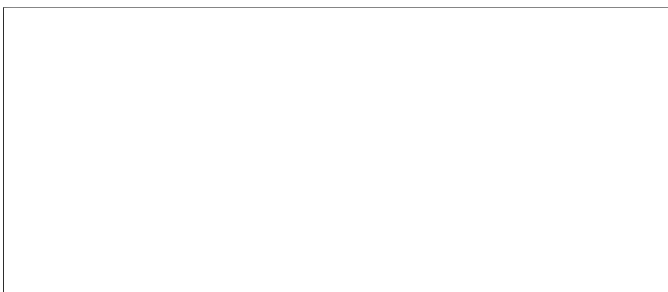
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USSR-SALT-ESC

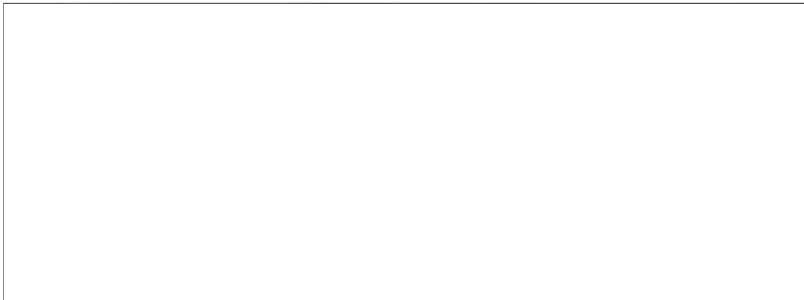
On 18 December, N.S. Kishilov, the general secretary of the Soviet delegation to SALT, told an ACDA official in Helsinki that the Soviets are holding back on a date for resuming the arms talks because of US opposition to a European security conference. Kishilov cited Secretary Rogers' remarks to the NATO council earlier this month, which he described as the "hardest yet," and the NATO communiqué itself. He said that the "German problem" was the main security problem in Europe and that a conference setting would enable "our two Germanies" to start talking with each other

Kishilov's remarks are a measure of Moscow's interest in a security conference and do not constitute an effort to downplay the arms talks with the US. In citing the German problem, Kishilov was pointing to Moscow's main reason for holding such a conference. Moscow's sensitivity to previous US references to "linkage" apparently does not prevent the Soviets from adopting this tactic for themselves.

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USSR-CHINA



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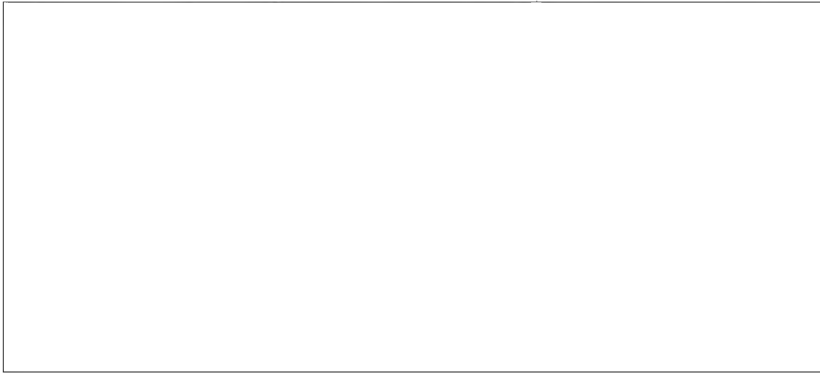


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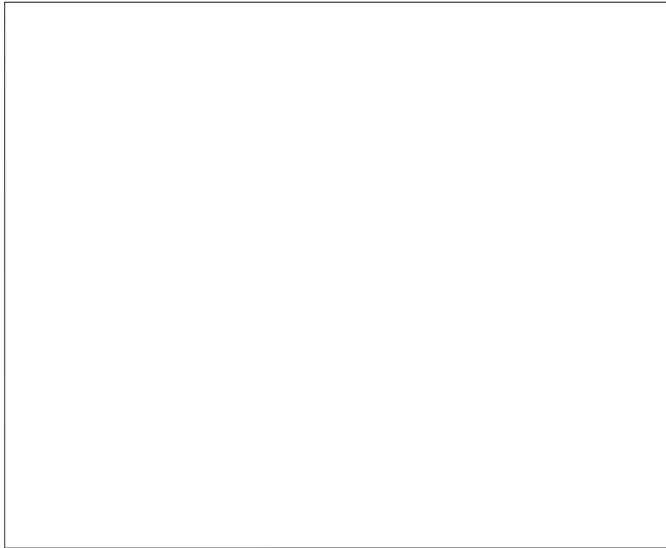
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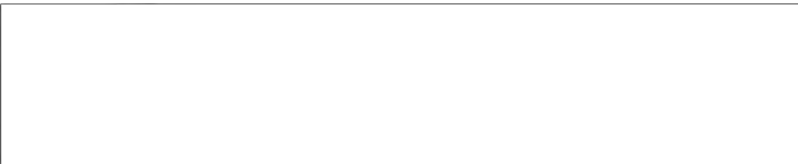
FRANCE - MIDDLE EAST



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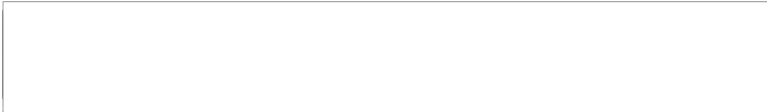
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JORDAN



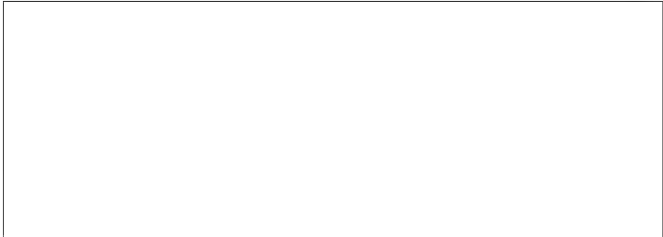
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INDIA

The two rival Congress parties are scheduled to hold plenary sessions of their top policy-making bodies during the next ten days. The old-guard faction, now in opposition in Parliament, is meeting currently while Mrs. Gandhi's group will gather in Bombay from 26 to 28 December. Both parties face similar organizational and policy problems in the wake of the formal split in Congress ranks last month.

Of the two parties, Mrs. Gandhi's appears to have a significant edge at the present time. It is in power, has retained the traditional name of the party, and has the support of a majority of state organizations and of rank and file members of the formerly united Congress. It is expected to deal more specifically with policy issues at the convention than will the old-guard opposition. Presumably Mrs. Gandhi and her followers will concentrate on economic problems and, to enhance the party's popular appeal, may issue statements calling for increasingly radical economic measures.

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NOTES

Guatemala: A spate of Communist-perpetrated violence, culminating in the assassination of a prominent right-wing politician, has led President Mendez to decree a "state of precaution" for the next 15 days. Security forces will be given extraordinary powers to arrest suspects, enter homes or search vehicles without warrants. The declaration, however, does not prohibit campaigning for the general elections on 1 March. The army has not yet been called upon to augment the security forces but long military leaves are being canceled.

The Embassy reports that all segments of society are blaming the Communists for the attacks.

Additional political assassinations could provoke reprisals against leftists by right-wing extremists.

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USSR-Czechoslovakia:

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